

Exhibitions programm 2008

The Historisches Museum Bern

The stately, castle-like museum, across from the Old City, houses one of Switzerland's most distinguished historical collections – among its treasures the Graechwil Hydria, a mysterious bronze vessel of Greek provenance dating from the 6th century BC. – Of similar international significance is the ensemble of twelve extraordinarily well preserved Franco-Flemish tapestries which were woven between 1440 and 1515 from wool, gold, and silk thread. The permanent exhibition leads the visitor on a journey from the Stone Age to the 20th century. A new and important focus of the collection has recently been added: Albert Einstein.

The world's first Einstein Museum

Einstein's Life and Work as a permanent exhibit

350,000 visitors from all over the world saw the Jubilee Exhibition on the life and work of this genius of physics in 2005/06. Reason enough for the Historisches Museum in Bern to present the show in concentrated form as a permanent exhibit under the name "Einstein Museum". On an area of 1200 sq m lavishly staged original memorabilia, written records and film documentaries describe Einstein's life and at the same time illustrate the history of the twentieth century. Animation films, experiments and a virtual journey through the cosmos explain Einstein's revolutionary theories in a clear and easy-to-understand way.

Exhibition Project for Euro 08

25 April – 24 August 2008

Special Exhibition

Charles the Bold (1433 – 1477)

He was Duke of Burgundy. He was one of the richest princes of his time, but he strove with all his power to win a king's crown. His court was the most brilliant in Europe and a centre of diplomacy; Burgundian court art was among the most exquisite that has ever flourished. Yet Charles the Bold came to grief on account of his overweening ambition. Following his defeat in battle against the Swiss Confederates, and death without a male heir, his inheritance went to his daughter Mary and, through her marriage with Maximilian I, to the house of Habsburg. With unique exhibits and lavish staging, the Exhibition follows the rise and fall of Charles the Bold, and describes his life in a thrilling way. It presents some 250 masterpieces of Burgundian and Netherlandish culture of the late Middle Ages: glittering examples of the goldsmith's art, huge tapestries, incomparable illuminated manuscripts, exquisite panel paintings, opulent parade armour, gemstones, coins, and much more. The Exhibition is being

held in collaboration with the Groeninge Museum in Bruges. The works from these outstanding collections will be supplemented with precious loans from over 40 Museums and Collections in Europe and America (including the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, the British Museum in London, the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Louvre in Paris).

This major Exhibition will be accompanied by a Medieval Theme Park (24 May – 24 August 2008).

Opening times

Exhibition: Tues – Fri 10–20h, Sat + Sun 10–17h

Park: Tues – Sun 10–17h

Special Exhibition to mark the third centenary of the birth of Switzerland's greatest man of learning and the opening of the Museum's KUBUS/TITAN extension.

4 December 2008 – 13 April 2009

Special Exhibiton

Albrecht von Haller (1708–1777)

The Historisches Museum in Bern is inaugurating its new KUBUS/TITAN extension (behind the main building) with a special exhibition devoted to the life and work of Albrecht von Haller (1708–1777).

The exhibition recounts the life and describes the achievements of Switzerland's greatest man of learning, placing them in the cultural and historical context of the 18th century. Haller's life led from birth and early years in Bern to university studies in Tübingen and Leiden, followed by study trips to London, Paris and Basel, and finally to the Swiss Alps. They inspired Haller to write his great Alpine poem (*Die Alpen*), which would be largely instrumental in promoting tourism as a phenomenon and arousing appreciation for mountain scenery.

The objects on display in the exhibition include breathtaking anatomical wax models, scientific instruments and important 18th-century works of art. A video installation in the form of an Alpine panorama and a facsimile reconstruction of an anatomical theatre will be the highpoints of the display.

Opening times: Tues – Sun 10 – 17h

For further information please contact:

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Photographic material can be downloaded from our website: www.bhm.ch under the link Media